



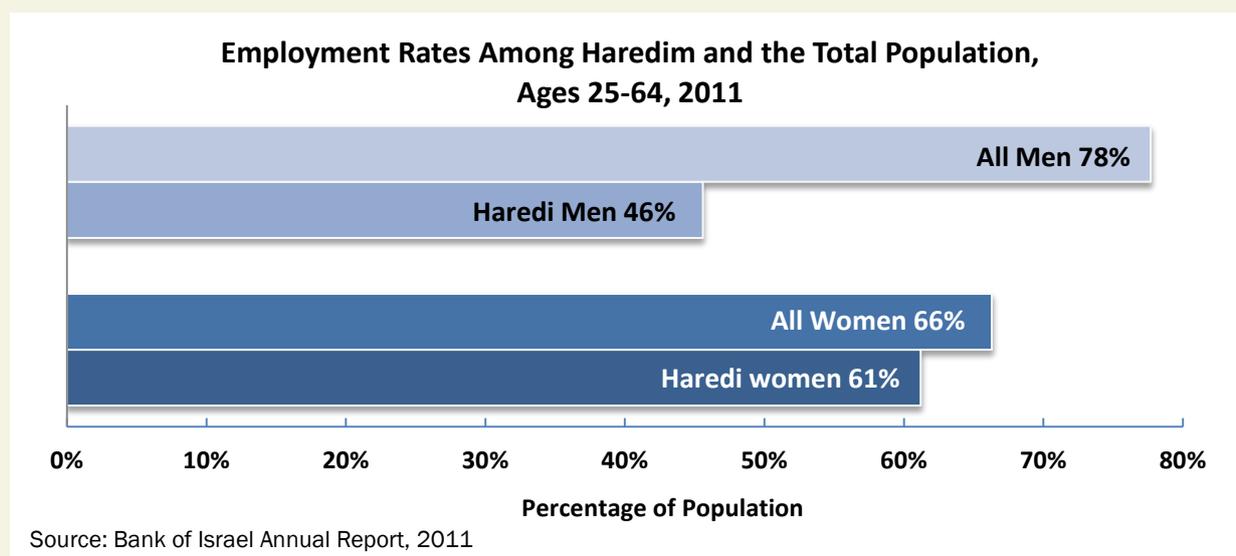
MJB Data Snapshot: The Socio-economic and Employment Situation of Israeli Haredim

In 2010, there were about 830,000 Haredim in Israel, representing 11% of the total population.

- ◆ The percentage of Haredim in the overall population will increase to 18% by 2030. (1)
- ◆ The percentage of Haredim in the working-age population (25-64) will increase from 7% to 12% by 2030. (1)

Employment rates among Haredi men and women have been increasing steadily over the past decade.

- ◆ For men, rates have increased from 36% in 2003 to 46% in 2011, but remain far below the rates for all Jewish men (78%). (2)
- ◆ For women, rates have increased from 50% in 2003 to 61% in 2011, and are approaching the rates of all Jewish women (66%). (2)



- ◆ In 2010, the government set an employment goal of 63% in 2020 for both Haredi men and women of working age. (2)
- ◆ While women are approaching the goal, the rate of improvement for men is inadequate.
- ◆ In 2011, 87,000 Haredim ages 25-64 did not work or actively look for work. They represent 10% of all those not working or looking for work. (3)
- ◆ The rate of Haredi people employed in the business sector is particularly low compared to non-Haredi Jews, while the proportion of those employed in public services (education, religious services) is more than a third of all Haredi employees. There is an interest in diversifying the employment patterns for both men and women. (2)
- ◆ Haredi employees work fewer hours per week on average than do non-Haredim, making the increase in hours of work an additional policy goal.

Several studies have examined the experiences of Haredim on the job. They find that:

- ◆ There is low turnover. (4)
- ◆ Job satisfaction is higher than that of the general population. (4)
- ◆ The vast majority feel that they receive equal treatment from their employers. (5)
- ◆ Very few men believe that their community status has been negatively affected by the fact that they work. (4)
- ◆ Studies of employers show that they consider Haredi workers to be equal to and often even better than, non-Haredi workers in terms of performance and productivity. (6)

Earnings and Poverty

- ◆ In 2011, 54% of Haredi families were poor. (7)
- ◆ The high rate of poverty is very strongly related to low rates of employment.
- ◆ Poverty rates are also related to low earnings. There is a significant gap in monthly earnings:
Haredi men: 6,600 NIS vs. 11,500 NIS for all men
Haredi women: 5,200 NIS vs. 7,300 NIS for all women (8)

Rates of Poverty Vary Dramatically with the Number of Wage Earners in the Family

	2 wage earners	1 wage earner	No wage earner
Haredi Families	18%	60%	88%
All Families	5%	28%	71%

Source: Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute Special Analysis of CBS Income Study, 2013.

- ◆ Thus, education and training are instrumental to narrowing these wage gaps.
- ◆ The large numbers of children to support is a further factor contributing to the high rates of poverty.

Higher education is an important stepping stone into employment.

- ◆ The interest in academic studies in the Haredi sector has increased in recent years.
- ◆ In 2011/12, there were over 7,000 Haredi students (men and women) in higher education. (9)
- ◆ Haredi men are over concentrated in law and business, and Haredi women are over concentrated in teachers colleges. A major policy goal is to diversify their studies into higher-demand professions including technical fields.
- ◆ A study on Haredim with academic and professional training showed that about 80% of those with academic degrees are employed. The vast majority are employed in their fields of study. (10)

Sources

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